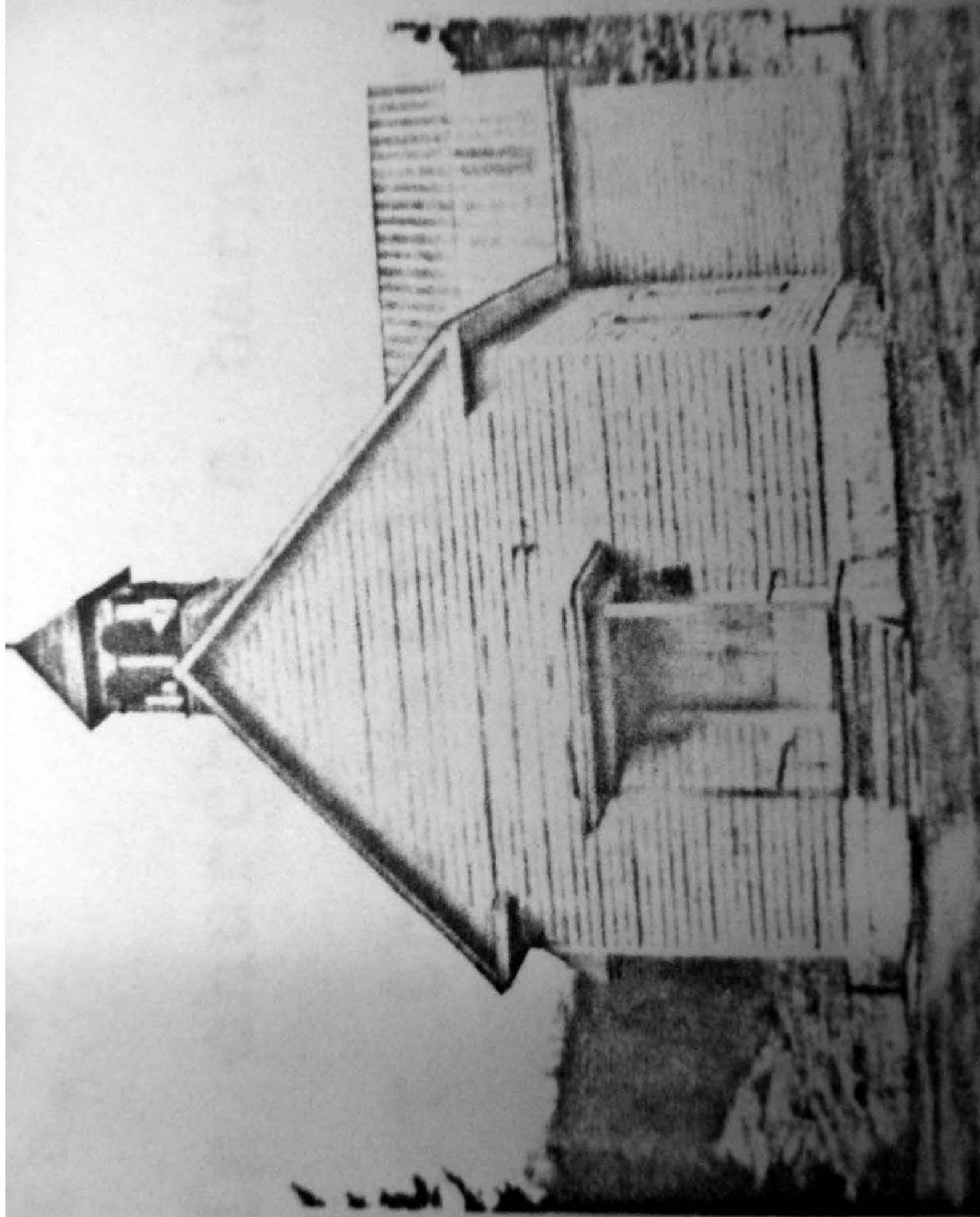


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Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va.
Chapter 6-Religion

ARBOGAST MEMORIAL CHAPEL--BARTOW

M. E. Church, South

The first church services, so far as any one knows, were held in the school house. Arbogast Memorial chapel was built in the year of 1882 and dedicated in 1883. It was built near the site of an old cemetery on the lands of the pioneer Abram Burner, which later came into the possession of his son George W. Burner, thence to Charles Burner and Elizabeth Beard Burner, his wife who gave the deed for the church lot in 1883, to Peter D. Yeager, A. M. V. Arbogast, Josiah O. Beard and Lee Burner, trustees. "A certain lot of land in the neighborhood of Travelers Repose containing one half acre. For and in consideration of the love we bear for the cause of Christ and from an earnest desire to promote his heritage on earth."

Near this church is a barn that was used as a hospital for the wounded at the Battle of Bartow in 1861, and between the barn and the church is the resting place of many of the dead. The Union soldiers later removed the bodies of most of their dead, but many of the Confederates from the Southern states remained buried there. At one grave was a stone bearing the inscription "In this grave is the bodies of six unknown Confederate Soldiers." but when the state road was built, the men who gathered rocks for the road base removed many of the stones from the graves and used them in building the road. The people of the community were greatly shocked when they learned what had happened and they demanded that no more of them be removed. (It does seem a pity that in a

place where as many rocks are found as are in Pocahontas, that they would remove grave stones to build road)

There were no churches nearer Bartow than Top Allegheny, Arbovale or Greenbank, and all of these places were several miles away, so in 1882 the people decided to build a church. Lee Burner furnished the timber and he with the help of his neighbors the Arbogasts, Yeagers and Burners cut and skidded the logs to a saw mill in the neighborhood and had it sawed into lumber for the church. Charles Burner paid the saw bill, and contributed more money than any other one person. He also boarded the carpenter *a Mr.* Elliot who planed all of the lumber by hand. It took him almost a year.

For many years this church was open to all denominations, but of late years only the Methodists use it. It is now an appointment on the Arbovale circuit, but was formerly on the Durbin circuit.

Records show for 1940 a membership of 98, many of them young people who have been added to the class the past year. I was told by the former pastor Rev. Howard Wriston, that this was his best appointment. Other appointments on this circuit are Arbovale, Bethel on Back Mountain, Wanless, Boyer, New Hope, and Frost.

The present trustees are I. E. Methany, B. J. Snyder, Harper Beverage, Oscar Turner, and Howard Kreamer. The present stewards are Mrs. B. J. Snyder, Harper Beverage, Frank Gajnor, and Edith Burner.

This church was named Arbogast Memorial in memory of the Rev. Benjamin Arbogast. He went to school a session or two to Academy(at Hillsboro) and then went to Dickinson College in Penn., and was graduated among the best in his class. In the meantime he entered the ministry and became a pulpit orator and one of the most distinguished teachers of the high school under the auspices of the M. E. Church, South.

It seems that he never lived at Bartow, and that the church was named in honor of him more to satisfy a whim of one of the members. Many of the people of the community do not even know it is named Arbogast Memorial as they never call it anything but Bartow church.

came down on his neck and held him there helpless. He had to
summons a neighbor to assist him in getting out. He afterwards
said that was the last time he would ever lock a church on
any one. The disagreement had been over building the Whornwood
church. The southern members had wanted to build the church, but
the President of the Lumber company was an M. E. and insisted on
having it built by the A. S. branch.